



**Catholic Social Teaching and the Parish  
Assessment Tool**

		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>Preaching and Worship</b>	The Sunday liturgy reflects a spirit of justice and peace.			
	Liturgical ministers have diverse representation in the parish community: age, race, and gender.			
	Social justice is integrated into the liturgical season, especially Advent and Lent.			
	The prayers of the faithful include social justice themes.			
	Homilies challenge parishioners to engage in works of justice in community.			
	Social justice issues and Catholic social teaching are included in parish bulletins.			
	Cultural and racial diversity are incorporated into the parish community's celebration.			
	Visitors feel welcomed, especially the poor and the disabled.			
	Music used in the liturgy reflects the theme of a servant church.			
	The church and adjacent buildings are wheelchair accessible.			
Inclusive language is used in the homilies and prayers of the faithful.				
<b>Observing National and International Days as Teaching Moments</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	<b>January – Poverty Awareness Month (CCHD)</b>			
	1 – World Day of Peace			
	3 – National Migration Week			
	11 – National Human Trafficking Awareness Day			
	16 – Religious Freedom Day			
	18 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity			
	27 – International Day of Commemoration for Victims of Holocaust in Auschwitz			
	<b>February – African American History Month</b>			
	2 – World Interfaith Harmony Week			
	8 – International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking			
	<b>March – Women's History Month</b>			
	1 – International Day for the Abolition of the Death Penalty			
	2 – International Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1970)			
	8 – International Women's Day			
15 – International Day Against Police Brutality				

18 – National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence			
21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racism			
22 – World Water Day			
<b>April</b>			
2 – World Autism Awareness Day			
7 – Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Rwandan Genocide			
20 – Volunteer Recognition Day			
28 – Arbor Day			
29 – World Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare			
<b>May – Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month</b>			
13 – World Fair Trade Day			
14 – Mother’s Day			
15 – International Day of Families			
21 – World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development			
22 – International Day for Biological Diversity			
<b>June – Torture Awareness Month</b>			
1 – World Communications Day			
4 – International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression			
5 – World Environment Day			
12 – World Day Against Child Labor			
15 – World Elder Abuse Day			
18 – Father’s Day			
20 – World Refugee Day			
23 – International Day of Public Service			
<b>July</b>			
4 – Independence Day			
<b>August</b>			
9 – International Day of the World’s Indigenous People			
12 – International Youth Day			
19 – World Humanitarian Day			

	23 – International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition			
	26 – Women’s Equality Day			
	29 – US Congress Passes the Civil Rights Act (1957)			
	<b>September – Hispanic Heritage Month, Suicide Prevention Month</b>			
	1 – World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation			
	5 – International Day of Charity			
	9 – Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities			
	19 – International Day of Peace			
	<b>October – Respect Life Month, Fair Trade Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month</b>			
	2 – International Day of Non-Violence			
	10 – World Homeless Day, World Mental Health Day			
	12 – National Farmer’s Day			
	13 – International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction			
	17 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty			
	<b>November – Native American Heritage Month, National Home Care and Hospice Month</b>			
	1 – Anniversary of Communities of Salt and Light (1993)			
	10 – World Science Day for Peace and Development			
	16 – International Day of Tolerance			
	21 – International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day			
	<b>December</b>			
	1 – World AIDS Day			
	2 – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery			
	3 – International Day of Disabled Persons			
	18 – International Migrants Day			
	20 – International Human Solidarity Day			
<b>Education</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	Adult educational events concerning Catholic social teaching are offered at least once a year.			
	Parish social events and programs are accessible to all parishioners, regardless of income status.			
	The parish provides resources and/or maintains a library that includes materials on justice and peace.			
	Students are regularly involved in specific projects that apply Catholic social teaching.			

	Youth are invited to participate in service and advocacy projects.			
	There are social justice events and program offered for young adults.			
<b>Programs Offered to Adults Parishioners in the Last Five Years</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	Economic Justice			
	Work and worker's rights			
	Human Rights			
	Peace and International Justice			
	Political responsibility			
	Society's responsibility to the poor and vulnerable			
	Stewardship of creation			
	Racial justice			
Consistent ethic of life				
<b>Parish-Supported Faith Groups Utilize Material That Have a Social Ministry Component</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	Scripture study groups			
	RCIA			
	Small faith communities			
<b>Catholic Social Teaching In-Service Programs are Offered to the following teachers</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	Catechists			
	Parish School Teachers			
<b>Religion Curriculum Incorporates Catholic Social Teaching</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	Catechists			
	Parish School Teachers			
<b>Outreach and Charity</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	Parish social ministry groups carry out short- term need projects (i.e. canned food drives).			
	Parish social ministry groups address long-term needs (i.e. care of the homebound).			
	The parish participates in ecumenical efforts to help the poor, the elderly, and the disabled.			

	The parish provides support groups for widows, divorced and separated persons, and persons struggling with chemical dependency.			
	The parish tithes a certain percentage of parish income for social service, social action, and mission work.			
	Parish groups undertake special projects (i.e. housing rehabilitation).			
	The parish strives to promote global solidarity (i.e. Catholic Relief Service (CRS) resources, parish twinning, fair trade)			
<b>Social Action Group Encourages Participation in Legislative Activities</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	Letter writing			
	Meeting with Legislator			
	Legislative Planning			
	Other – please include:			
<b>Organize for Justice</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	The social action group involves itself in community organizing on local, regional, or national issues?			
	The social action group supports Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) speaker events and CCHD-funded groups?			
	Involvement in other human rights advocacy efforts.			
	The parish social action group participates in ecumenical coalitions.			
	The parish social action group participates at least once a year in regional parish social ministry training, workshop, or conference.			
	The social action group obtains ideas or in other ways seeks the counsel of the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry undertaking social action projects.			
	Members of the parish participate on a steering committee or team of the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry.			
	Members of the parish attend the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry Annual Dinner.			
	Members of the parish attend the Bishop Peter Rosazza Annual Social Justice Conference.			



### **Reflection and Evaluation**

**One reason for doing an assessment is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your program. An appreciation of these insights can give direction to parish planning. Please take the time to examine the finds of your assessment.**

1. In view of the responses, what strengths do you see in your parish's attempt to incorporate Catholic social teaching?

2. In view of the responses, what areas requiring improvement do you see in your parish's attempt to incorporate Catholic social teaching?



3. What recommendations can be made for future parish planning and action, and how can the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry assist you in your follow up?

**Name of Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parishes are encouraged to share the results of their assessment with the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry.  
Send your results to:**

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